

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUCHAR 04207 160916Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 /063 W
----- 033621

R 160820Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8876

INFO: RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 3610

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, XH, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN ANTI-RFE CAMPAIGN

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 1851; (B) BUCHAREST 3200

1. SUMMARY. ROMANIA'S ANTI-RFE MEDIA CAMPAIGN HAS HEATED UP SOMEWHAT SINCE BEGINNING OF JUNE AFTER THREE MONTHS OF RELATIVE CALM. END SUMMARY.

2. ROMANIA'S MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST RFE, HAVING TAPERED OFF BY MARCH 1976 (REFTEL A), IS AGAIN ON THE RISE WITH APPEARANCE OF FOUR ARTICLES IN SAPTAMINA SINCE JUNE 2-4 CULTURAL CONGRESS. CONTEMPORANUL (APRIL 30) ALSO FEATURED ARTICLE BY GEORGE-RADU CHIROVICI WHICH CRITICIZED ROMANIANS WORKING FOR RFE WHO BECOME SLAVES TO MONEY WHILE CALUMNIZING ROMANIA AS A NATION OF SLAVES. SAME ISSUE CONTAINED POEM BY VASILE NICOLESCU ENTITLED "SLANDERERS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUCHAR 04207 160916Z

OF THE MOTHERLAND" WHICH, ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONING RFE

BY NAME, REFERS TO "CENTURIONS OF HATE" WHO SPEAK WITH "SUPPLE LIES" AND "PUTRIFYING WORDS." RENEWED PUBLIC ATTENTION TO RFE WAS SIGNALLED BY ATTACKS OF WRITER-EDITOR EUGEN BARBU (SAPTAMINA, MAY 21) AND CEAUSESCU HIMSELF IN OPENING CULTURAL CONGRESS SPEECH AGAINST DEFECTING WRITER PETRU POPESCU. CEAUSESCU'S SPEECH ALSO COUNTERATTACKED AGAINST FOREIGN MEDIA CRITICISM OF ROMANIA (BUCHAREST 3200).

3. UNLIKE EARLIER PHASE OF CAMPAIGN, WHICH WAS MORE WIDESPREAD, CURRENT CRITICISM SEEMS LIMITED TO ALMOST WEEKLY ARTICLES BY SAPTAMINA'S BARBU, A SPECIALIST IN CHARACTER ASSASSINATION, WHO HAS ATTACKED RFE COMMENTATOR EMIL GEORGESCU (JUNE 18), AND ROMANIAN SERVICE DIRECTOR NOEL BERNARD (JUNE 25 AND JULY 9). SEIZING ON BERNARD'S IRRITATION AT PCR'S MONOPOLIZATION OF ROMANIAN HISTORY, JUNE 25 ARTICLE POSTULATES INTRIGUING POSSIBILITY THAT BERNARD, WHO LEFT ROMANIA AS CHILD, IS IN REALITY OF SWISS, FRENCH, OR EVEN ILLYRIAN EXTRACTION. NOR DOES BERNARD'S JEWISH BACKGROUND ESCAPE BARBU, WHO AT ONE POINT DELIBERATELY MISSPELLED ROMANIAN WORD FOR SHEPHERD TO CONFORM TO JEWISH PRONUNCIATION OF WORD AND MADE REFERENCE TO BERNARD'S FEELING AT HOME IN PIATRA NEAMT, FORMER JEWISH POPULATION CENTER IN MOLDAVIA.

4. BARBU'S JULY 9 ARTICLE INTRODUCES NEW APPROACH, WITH BARBU PRINTING WITHOUT COMMENT PURPORTED "LETTER FROM A STATION EDITOR OF RADIO FREE EUROPE". VITRIOLICALLY-WORDED ARTICLE TERMS RFE AS "FACTORY OF LIES" AND ACCUSES BERNARD OF IGNORANCE ABOUT ROMANIA AND HIGH-HANDED TREATMENT OF RFE STAFFERS. CITED ARE FEUDS WITH FORMER RFE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CIORANESCU AND STATION EDITOR POPPER. LETTER ALSO ACCUSES BERNARD'S "ASSISTANT" MAX BANUS OF DOCTORING LISTENER LETTERS TO ENHANCE BERNARD'S POPULAR IMAGE. LETTER IS PRESUMABLY NOTHING BUT CRUDE FABRICATION, BUT BARBU PROMISES READERS THAT MORE OF SAME WILL BE PRINTED AS THEY ARE RECEIVED.

SCISSORS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUCHAR04207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760274-0755
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760752/aaaabtcu.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BUCHAREST 1851, 76 BUCHAREST 3200
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN ANTI-RFE CAMPAIGN
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, XH, RO, RFE
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006